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Blank Park Zoo

### Part I: General Overview of Business

- The Blank Park Zoo (BPZ) in Des Moines, IA opened in 1966 based on a generous donation from A.H. and Myron Blank. The zoo was originally based around nursery theme rhymes. The BPZ is now the only AZA accredited zoo in Iowa with over 300,000 visitors each year. The mission statement of the BPZ is “to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education, and recreation.”

### Part II: Job Specifics

- Jordan worked at the Blank Park Zoo this summer in the large cat and primate department. Jordan's responsibility included preparing primate diets, basic animal husbandry duties, educational animal talks with guests, as well as gathering data for a workplace efficiency study. Jordan and his teacher partner shared the daily duties and responsibilities of a zookeeper, which aids the zoo in their operation, especially during peak times in the summer.

### Part III: Introduce the Problem

- Animals all across the globe are declining in numbers for many different reasons. Zoologists and conservationists work together to determine what animals need help and find appropriate solutions for those animals. Zoos and aquariums provide proper conservation methods for many of these animals. The zoo needs your help to design an exhibit for one of these species being added to the zoo.

### Part IV: Background

- Students need to understand basic ecosystem principles such as relationships or interactions with living and nonliving things, basic needs such as diet and space, as well as an understanding of current conservation practices.
- The business needs to provide information such as amount of space available, current breeding plans, and quarantine requirements.

### Part V: Business Solution

- Zoologists and Conservationists together with zoo staff would look at data of several species and identify which are in need of assistance. Professionals would work together to design an exhibit that replicates every aspect of an organism’s ecosystem.

### Part VI: Student Solutions

- Students will develop a species survival plan from a list of animals provided. This will include interactions with living and nonliving things, diet and other sources of energy, type of enclosure including optimal temperature and foliage, and overall conservation benefits of living in captivity.